



Liptak, Adam <liptaka@nytimes.com>

Statement from Christy Jack regarding Paul Storey

1 message

Melody McDonald Lanier <melody@versustexas.com>

Fri, Oct 25, 2019 at 12:33 PM

To: "Liptak, Adam" <liptaka@nytimes.com>

Adam,

Please see the following statement from attorney Christy Jack and attachment. Please let me know if you anything else. She's in the midst of preparing for a jury trial and is in an out of the office or at the courthouse all day.

The Cherry family was generally opposed to the death penalty, a position that had been conveyed to the defense. Before trial, Paul Storey was offered a life sentence with no possibility for parole in exchange for pleading guilty to the capital murder of Jonas Cherry — the same offer that was made to, and accepted by, his co-defendant. The family knew about this offer and, when Storey rejected it, the family supported the decision to move forward with trial, understanding that we were seeking the death penalty.

The Cherry family was present during the majority of the trial and listened first-hand to details of the callous nature of their son's murder. They also learned about other crimes committed by Storey and they witnessed his lack of remorse when he was captured laughing on surveillance video hours after he and Mark Porter executed their son as he begged for his life.

In my many conversations with the Cherry family throughout the process, they were increasingly supportive of our decision. The family was present during my closing argument during the sentencing phase. They hugged and thanked me and expressed their gratitude after the closing argument and after the verdict. In the days following the trial, they sent a handwritten letter to my trial partner and I, again thanking us for speaking on their behalf.

I respect that, with the passage of time, the family has forgiven Paul Storey. Their compassion demonstrates the type of people they are. They do not wish the pain of losing a son on anyone.

I stand by my statements to the jury and my testimony during the hearing. The highest criminal court reviewed the entire record, reversed the lower court's decision and reinstated the death sentence. I have included a photo of a hand-written card that the Cherry family sent us after the trial.

The original card is in evidence and was available for the Justices on the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to consider in reaching their decision.

Thank you for reaching out.

Dear Christy and Robert,
Glenn & I wanted to
thank you for all that you
did during the trial, as
well as in the months of
preparation. We were
genuinely impressed by
your professionalism and
competence - some of
it was masterful!!
We felt like we had
someone who could speak
on Jonas' and our behalfs.
We also appreciated your

attention to the family
during the process.

Lastly, though it was
difficult to go through
the trial, we were also
very comforted by some
of what we learned.

Thank you both so much
and Take Care,

On behalf of the family

Melody McDonald Lanier
Varghese Summersett PLLC
Media Relations Director

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NY Times Mail - Statement from Christy Jack regarding Paul Storey

300 Throckmorton, Suite 1650
Fort Worth, Texas 76102
(817) 203-2220 (office)
(817) 821-3935 (cell)
versustexas.com